

REMARKS

[0001] Claims 1, and 3-17, and 21-24 are pending in the case. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S Patent No. 3154162 to McCaleb *et al.* (hereinafter “McCaleb”) in view of Manak. Claims 1, 3-17, 21 and 22 are allowed.

[0002] Claim 23 has been amended to mirror the limitations of allowable independent Claim 1, and Claim 23 has been amended to correct dependency. Claim 23 now includes all of the limitations of Claim 1 and is further limited by the inclusion of an electronic system including a smartcard reader for enabling usage based billing. As such, Applicant asserts that Claims 23 and 24 are now in condition for allowance.

[0003] In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for immediate allowance. In the event any questions remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to initiate a telephone conference with the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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